

## BYGONE YEARS FROM JOHN BADRICK

John was born in 1936 and lived in Little London, Ford until 1940. His father worked as a farm labourer at Springhill Farm, Cuddington Road where they lived until 1946 when the family moved to 'The Gables' opposite Dinton Church.

The Gables and the house next door now known as "Summers Cottage" originally were one house and formed part of the Currie Estate who owned Dinton Hall.

The Badrick family lived in the front part of the house and the back was used for storage. Rats were often seen around being attracted by the produce stored at the rear. The Gables has 2 cellars with a well outside the kitchen window. John can remember when they first moved in that major work had to be carried out on the gable end and a false floor and ceiling had to be installed.

He remembers the harsh snow conditions of 1947 and being able to walk across Biggin Pond to reach the island. In 1950's there were problems in the village with the sewerage system causing flooding in many areas. It was after severe flooding that a pumping station was installed down Boot Lane, Dinton.

John has a brother, Dennis, who was a lay preacher at the Old Chapel next door to the Old Bakery in the High Street, Dinton. John and Maureen's wedding cake was made by John Webb who ran the bakery at that time.

John got married in 1963 and moved to Winslow with his wife, Maureen. His family continued to live in The Gables until 1970.

John has mainly worked in agriculture, leaving school to work on Coldharbour Farm then on to the mushroom farm at Aston Mullins in Ford. He then went to work at Blenheim Farm for 6 years and at the time he got married he was working for Bucks Education on the gardening team. After getting married he worked for a time at the Brickworks – Calvert Housing estate. Antiference and with an Agricultural Machinery company, New Hollands. Finally, back to work at Bucks Education mowing school playing fields and Highways Dept for grass cutting. He now works part time as a gardener in the local area. John helped out at Dinton Fete transporting chairs and tables and bales of hay into the grounds of Dinton Hall.

John was a keen footballer and there were 2 teams in Dinton, the position he played was forward and defender. Cricket was another sport he played and he remembers it being illegal to play during the war as the land was requisitioned for crops. After the war Sir William gave the cricket pitch to the club.

In the Village Hall there was a Social Club where darts, billiards and table tennis used to be played. Table Tennis is where he excelled and won medals playing in the league matches. His friendly team of 4 included Paddy Power, Alan Jeffrey and Derek Snooks.

Just off Chestnut Avenue there is the Pine Spinney and most of the pine tree were chopped down and the wood requisitioned during the war. Chestnut Avenue got its name from the line of Chestnut trees but also there used to be lots of Elm Trees that became diseased and had to be felled.

Dinton Folly was a regular meeting place for children where they used to play the old game of Tic Tac Toe.